

Air Power

Quote of the Week

“If we should have to fight, we should be prepared to do so from the neck up instead of from the neck down.”

– Gen. James Doolittle

News in

Brief

Gospel Fest

The Black History Committee and the base chapel are hosting a Gospel Fest at 3 p.m. Sunday at the base chapel. This will be a kick off event for Black History Month. Dinner will be served following the program. For more information, call 298-5111, 298-5422 or 298-5914.

Dining-out

Today is the last day to buy tickets for the Fiesta Center and H.U.G.S. committee Family Dining-out set for 6 p.m. Feb. 7 at Club XL. Tickets are \$10 and include dinner and a coin. Tickets are available from the Fiesta Center and group executive officers. Dan Clark, author and motivational speaker, will be the guest speaker. The recommended age is ten years and older, though younger children may attend if parents feel they are mature enough to enjoy the event and participate.

For more information, call 298-5419.

Mission

status

(As of Jan. 24)

Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	2.30	79.0%
T-1	-0.30	86.3%
T-38	0.06	73.9%
T-6	N/A	76.9%

Laughlin undergoing major facelift



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

A three-cubic yard front loader clears off a part of the area where construction is beginning for the new fitness center. The new fitness center is one of many construction projects under way at Laughlin.

Construction sites abound at Laughlin, with more to come

Compiled from Staff Reports

Finally, an answer to the question many Laughlin people have been asking, “What’s with all the different construction sites on base?”

Take a virtual tour beginning at the main gate:

- New **railroad crossing arms** have been funded and are scheduled to be in place during this year.
- New **gate tracks** were installed over the holidays as part of the gate and motor controls repair at the main entrance.
- Coming through the main gate, over to the right, the **fuels area** is widening the road to make loading

See ‘Work,’ page 4

Environmental team to examine Laughlin

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Conde
Staff writer

A team of 26 experts from Air Education and Training Command will be here Feb. 10 – 14 to assess Laughlin’s Environmental Safety Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program.

Every two years, 13 environmental protocols are inspected to ensure Laughlin is complying with Occupation Safety Health Administration and Environmental Protection Agency federal laws, state laws and Air Force instructions. These programs are geared at protecting human health and the environment.

The program now integrates major elements of safety and occupational health with the current inspection

protocols. They include: air emissions, cultural resources, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, natural resources, pesticides, petroleum oils and lubricants, solid waste, storage tanks, toxic substances, wastewater, water quality and other environmental issues.

“The 13 areas are the backbone of the inspection, but now we’re adding occupational health and all-around safety issues,” said Ramon Flores, 47th Civil Engineering Squadron environmental engineer flight chief.

1st Lt. Jadee Bell, 47th CES environmental program manager, said the ESOHCAMP inspection helps identify areas that need improvement and avenues for correcting these areas internally. “It is one of the ways the Air Force ensures we don’t abuse

the resources we’ve been given,” she said. “The inspection is also an important tool to prepare us for outside inspections, such as EPA and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which can heap heavy fines on us.”

To prepare for the inspection, Laughlin put together a team from environmental, safety and bioenvironmental flights to perform staff assistance visits in all base industrial shops and storage areas. This team also trains about 500 people base wide on hazardous materials and waste to ensure everyone involved understands their responsibilities. “This is important because anybody who uses hazardous materials here, including contractors, could be inter-

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Commanders' Corner

Lt. Col. Eddy Stanfill
47th Flying Training Wing chief of plans

Now, that's a great American

A few years ago, I had the privilege of attending a breakfast where the guest speaker was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen. I listened as he spoke of the gallantry of flight in those early days of black aviators, and the challenges he faced breaking into the ranks of our Army Air Corps and the early Air Force. Upon completing his remarks, I thought to myself, "now that's a great American."

It's easy to see this man as a great American; how-

ever, I believe there are great Americans all around us. We see them every day.

While in the Air Force for over 26 years, I have had the privilege to serve with many great airmen, officer and enlisted alike. We all serve without fanfare or insight into how long we will serve, then you find yourself, like my friend Chief Master Sgt. John Salisbury, Air Mobility Command loadmaster, leaving active duty after 30 years. As a loadmaster, his career has spanned many high-

visibility crises for the United States and the world supporting contingency and humanitarian airlift missions.

While Chief Salisbury is retiring, another young man, a Del Rio native, Gilbert Rubio, raises his right hand, repeats a similar oath and is now a Navy security specialist stationed in

Bahrain, Southwest Asia. This is a hot spot for possible future conflicts in that region. Neither will admit it, but they

are great Americans

Many of us in the Air Force got our first inclination to serve in the military from our immediate family. I was no exception. My dad, a career Army infantry man, fought twice in Korea and once in Vietnam, sustaining wounds in battle and receiving the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

A call to serve also came from my mom, who was a career civil servant. The influence of her nine brothers who served from World

War II to Vietnam in three armed services helped to boost the calling as well. My two brothers and I were destined to serve, influenced by great Americans.

Finally, it is not only in our armed forces that we see great Americans. I witnessed a young married couple begin their journey together as high school English teachers. Educating future generations of Americans is certainly a selfless way to show dedication to the American spirit. You've seen it as well in your neighborhoods and work place. And let's not forget those dedicated civil servants, working all over the world in all specialties to support our armed forces and make them the best the world has ever known.

Perhaps I have been spoiled being around such dedicated and selfless individuals. I'm sure, however, it's not just a by-product of serving in the greatest Air Force the world has ever known. I know there are patriotic, great Americans in every walk of life. Just look around, we see them every day.

"I believe there are great Americans all around us. We see them everyday."

Once an airman, forever an airman

By Chief Master Sgt. William Milligan

Command Chief Master Sgt. of Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – It's one of those things that just kind of sneaks up on you. You are ambling along, doing your job each day, enjoying life, when it seems to come from nowhere and suddenly your life changes, never to be the same again. You don't really like it, but you must accept it because you can't do anything about it. So, you start making plans to deal with this unwanted situation called retirement.

Never in 29 years have I been faced with a dilemma that I have had such a difficult time accepting. I have always subscribed to the theory that there are only two ways to have stress in your life: No. 1: you have control of a situation, and it is not going well, but you are not ex-

ercising your control; and No. 2: you are trying to control something you have no control over.

Accept these two tenets and you will have no stress. However, now that I am facing retirement, something I can do nothing about, I realize I must accept it. I'm not sure the No. 2 tenet is as easily followed as I thought.

Regardless, it will happen, and I will find a way to deal with it. Consequently, there are a few things I would like to leave with you as I transition to another career.

Life as an airman is an honor and privilege. We sometimes forget to consider the challenges and opportunities afforded to us as airmen. Being an airman is not about pay, benefits, allowances or entitlements. It's about freedom, democracy and an equality of life for all.

See 'Airman,' page 3



Editorial Staff

Col. Dan Woodward
Commander

Capt. Paula Kurtz
Public affairs chief

2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon
Internal information chief

Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein
Editor

Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde
Staff writer

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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil.

‘Airman,’ from page 2

These freedoms we enjoy are only as secure as the men and women who have and are willing to serve in our armed forces. Being an airman is one way of making that ultimate commitment.

This commitment must be free from inhibitors such as compensation or expected rewards. Of course, those who serve should expect a comparable quality of life for themselves and their family, but that is a function of leadership. The role of the airmen is to prosecute those things within their control that ensure freedom and equality for all, to dedicate themselves to maintaining democracy regardless of the requirements.

At times, the challenges presented during a career can seem overwhelming, yet we always find a way to succeed. We deal with deployments, remote tours away from family, and uprooting and moving families, many times resulting in many different homes and numerous school systems. With each job

comes new challenges for both the member and the family. Only someone who has walked in these shoes can understand and appreciate these challenges, but with each also comes opportunities.

We are afforded the opportunity to become mentally and physically stronger, disciplined and able to deal with change. Our family members also learn to deal with the temporary nature of each assignment. Most importantly, we are privileged to be a part of something far more important than life itself.

We know that as a result of our service, the world will be more free, a little longer, and along the way, we are blessed. We are fortunate to work with only the finest professionals from the pilot to the mess cook.

Our growth and potential is only restricted by the constraints we place on ourselves. Everyone is equal regardless of gender, race or religion. The bottom line is we have the greatest people serving this great nation in the greatest Air Force in the world and serving with distinction.

We get to be a part of this great institution. Therefore, with this understanding, I believe I can accept retirement. I can accept retirement because there are many who will come after me, just like those before me, those committed to ensuring this country continues to be the flag bearer for freedom and democracy.

As stated by our 12th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, when I am retired and my young granddaughter is sitting on my knee and asks, “Granddaddy, what did you do in the Air Force?” I know exactly how I will respond. “Sweetheart, I was part of an institution that promoted democracy, an organization where freedom was paramount. I was a member of a profession where words like character, valor and integrity had a totally different meaning than what the dictionary defines. I was an airman and in our job the bottom line wasn’t profit. It was freedom.”

I will truly miss putting on my uniform each morning, but I realize that being an airman is not just about wearing a uniform. Being an

airman is not just a job, not just a vocation, not just a hobby. It’s about being the consummate military member and citizen. Being an airman is stepping up and facing the requirements of military life. Being an airman is not something you put on or take off; it’s not something you quit doing. Not even in retirement do we don’t stop being airmen, we simply change roles. In reality, you can never stop being an airman because it is part of your DNA.

I was blessed and fortunate to spend the last several years of my career in Air Education and Training Command. The people in the First Command, from the leadership to the staff at the headquarters, to the instructors in the most geographically separated field training detachments, have given me outstanding support. You are true Air Force professionals, and I know you will welcome and support Chief Master Sgt. Karl Meyers in the same manner you supported me.

God bless our Air Force, and God bless this great country.



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

Actionline
Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every at

tempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate. If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Crosswalks

Comment: I work over at the Engine Regional Repair Center in building 68. My real concern is the crosswalks, and vehicles not stopping for pedestrians going across the crosswalk. I had this happen to me again today. I was halfway into the crosswalk, when a truck passed by me without any hesitation or attempt to stop. This has happened on several occasions and with all caliber of people. It just seems like disobedience as far as crosswalks

are concerned. Is it possible that we can get some law enforcement to look into this problem? I appreciate it. Thanks.

Answer: Thanks for bringing this to my attention. According to Texas traffic laws, vehicles should yield to pedestrians who are actually in the roadway in a crosswalk. In addition, pedestrians need to use good judgment and should not suddenly leave a curb in the path of a vehicle so close that it is impossible to yield. Texas law also says that pedestrians not yet in the crosswalk

must yield to vehicles until the way is clear. Because of your call, I’ve asked our security forces to increase enforcement patrols during peak pedestrian times along Second Street. I’d also ask that our drivers and pedestrians exercise sound judgment and perhaps even extend a little added courtesy to fellow XL’ers as they travel around Laughlin. Finally, if you have a problem like this in the future, please pass a license number or description of the vehicle to security forces so they can take appropriate action.

Laughlin remembers long-time employee

By 2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon

Public affairs

Laughlin lost one of its own Jan. 21 when Sharon Mitchell passed away in her home following a long illness.

Ms. Mitchell worked as the secretary to the 87th Flying Training Squadron commander for 27 years prior to her retirement in 2000.

Many Laughlin members recall Ms.

Mitchell's impact

throughout the years.

"She was passionate about everything in life, from her grandchildren to her puppies," said her best friend of four years,

Shelly Blottin, secretary to the 47th Operations Support Squadron commander.

Not only did Ms. Mitchell share with those of her same profession, but also with many student pilots and instructors who passed through her of-

fice. "When [a student pilot] would have a concern with their academics or if it was their first solo, Sheri would drop whatever she was doing and pray right then with that person," said Ms. Blottin.

Ms. Mitchell touched many people's lives throughout her career. Often she made such an impact that when people left and later returned they would remember her and take time to visit her, said Ms. Blottin.

In some cases, Ms.

Mitchell's secretarial support spanned generations. "She retired as Lt. Col. Jeff Ellis' secretary and she had been his father's secretary when he was a squadron com-

mander here at Laughlin some 20 years ago," said Lt. Col. Robert Craven, 47th Operations Support Squadron commander.

"She was one of the best people I knew on base, and was really good about caring for

people," said Master Sgt. Brian Lewallen, 47th Operations Support Squadron superintendent of aviation resource management.

Dedicated to people and her work, Ms.

Mitchell always sought to be very professional.

"She thought of the 87th FTS as her extended family and gave 100 percent to see that the office ran smoothly," said Lois Yeackle, secretary to the wing commander.

As part of the 87th FTS family, Ms. Mitchell also felt the need to keep order and discipline.

"She used to swat me with a ruler to keep me in line," said Sergeant Lewallen.

When Ms. Mitchell retired, award after award of hers was found packed away in the squadron cabinets, said Maj. Dave Brown, 87th FTS executive officer. "In her day she was the end-all, be-all of civilian employees."

For many here, Ms. Mitchell will be remembered as Ms. Blottin said, "She was a sweetheart, gentle, loving, caring [and] always thinking of the other person."

'Work,' from page 1

and unloading fuel trucks safer and more efficient.

■ To the left, a **parking area** for the fueling trucks is being repaved.

■ Continuing down Liberty Drive, the building currently housing Border Federal Credit Union and the Thrift Shop sits on the site for the new **wing headquarters** building, which will consolidate all wing staff agencies. The building is scheduled to be demolished around November, moving the credit union and Thrift Shop to another location. The old headquarters building will be demolished once the new one is complete, around June 2005.

■ Continuing west along Liberty Drive, making a right on Arnold, across from the base exchange is the

new 96-room **visiting quarters** that will replace the Laughlin Manor this summer.

■ Farther up Arnold, roofers are working on the **officer housing area** to replace roofs damaged by the hail-storm last April. If funding is received for the rest of housing, it should all be complete this year.

■ Along Ribas-Dominici Circle, the **privacy fence** project is set to improve the appearance of the area and provide backyard privacy to the people living across from the circle. Scheduled to be completed in April.

■ The **medical group** may receive multi-million dollar renovation funding this year. If so, the renovation will be constructed in phases to prevent interference with normal operations.

■ Just past the clinic, there is a construction site for a new **fitness/**

wellness center. It will be twice the size of the existing fitness center and will include an indoor pool and elevated running track. It is scheduled to be complete in about two years.

■ Taking a left on Fourth Street, there is a construction site for a new **security forces complex**. The project includes a new training classroom at the marksmanship range, which is scheduled to be completed in February.

"Laughlin was very fortunate to receive funding from a variety of sources last year," said Dave Van Winkle, 47th Civil Engineering Squadron flight programmer. The funds came from Air Education and Training Command for end-of-year funding, Defense Logistics Agency for fuels projects and from congress for specific projects.

"The congressional funds were [sought] for Laughlin by Congressman Henry Bonilla and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and [signed] by the president in the fiscal year 2002 and 2003 budgets," said Mr. Van Winkle.

Aside from the recent move of the Airman's Attic and relocation of a portion of the jogging trail, the simultaneous projects under construction have caused minimal impact to the community. "Sometimes we cannot avoid disruption to daily routines," he said. "We try to schedule disruptions to service on weekends, whenever possible, to lessen [impact]."

Reducing operation and repair costs remains a focus for Laughlin improvements; however, the primary concern of all projects is to accomplish the mission while maintaining quality of life, said Mr. Van Winkle.

Drug recall

All lot numbers of Ancom Antihypertensive Compound Tablets by Herbsland Inc. have been recalled. Consumers using this product and experiencing any adverse effects should seek advise from their physician for evaluation and treatment of hypertension. Consumers are encourage to discontinue use of product and to return product to place of purchase for refund.

For more information, call Herbsland Inc. at (917) 480-9107.

Newslines

Firearm registration

Laughlin housing residents are required to register all personally owned firearms on base by March 15. Air Force Form 1314, Firearms Registration, can be obtained from the Internet at www.e-publishing.af.mil. The form should be ad-

ressed ATTN: 47 SFS SFOSS and must be signed by the firearm owner's commander. Return the form to the security forces law enforcement desk.

For more information, call 298-5248.

Clinic tests new hours

The 47th Medical Group will close at 4 p.m. everyday beginning Monday and continuing throughout February.

For more information, call 298-6325.

Wing recognizes annual award winners

Compiled from staff reports

The 47th Flying Training Wing annual awards dinner was held Saturday at Club XL. Sixteen awards were given out to officer, enlisted and civilian mem-

bers of Team XL. “The winners of these awards have stood out among their peers,” said Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander. “The winners and the nominees represent the best that Team XL

has to offer.” The award winners receive a plaque and gift certificates from the base exchange and several businesses in Del Rio and they also are recognized at the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards

Banquet. Not pictured are Civilian Category III winner Neal Michelich, 47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate, and Non-appropriated Funds Category II winner Janie Soto, 47th Services Division.



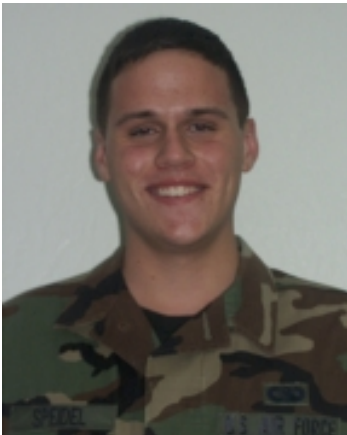
First Sergeant
Master Sgt. Kevin Smith
47th Mission Support Group



Senior NCO
Master Sgt. Robin Rutzke
47th Aeromedical
Dental Squadron



NCO
Tech. Sgt. Daniel Thiel
47th Contracting Squadron



Airman
Airman 1st Class
Christopher Speidel
47th Communications Squadron



Company Grade Officer
2nd Lt. Sarah Bragg
47th Security Forces Squadron



Civilian Category I
Aimee Buckless
47th Comptroller Flight



Civilian Category II
Clive Trammell
47th Flying Training Wing
Maintenance Directorate



NAF Category I
Beatrice Hernandez
47th Services Division



Instructor Pilot
1st Lt. Glenn Gonzales
87th Flying Training Squadron



Nonrated Flight Commander
1st Lt. Paula Schoch
47th SVS



Rated Flight Commander
Capt. Jody Reven
84th Flying Training Squadron



Volunteer
Diana Adkins
47 Mission Support Squadron



Health and Safety Contributor
Capt. Troy McGrath
85th Flying Training Squadron



Honor Guard Member
Senior Airman Heinzl
Jno-Baptist
47th Medical Group

Tax Center offers free help to military, families

**Compiled by
staff reports**

Free tax preparation help is being offered to local active-duty and retired military members, reservists and family members throughout tax season.

The Laughlin Tax Center trained 25 volunteers from base units in a volunteer income tax assistance seminar Tuesday through Thursday.

“This is a good way to help relieve the stress of tax season,” said Capt. Aniya Dunkley, 47th Flying Training Wing chief of civil law. “People who need help will have trained people available for help and guidance.”

VITA representatives can help people prepare and electronically file their income tax returns at no cost. Electronic filing can speed up the time it takes to receive tax refunds and provides the option of paying taxes electronically by drawing money directly from the filer’s bank account.

VITA representatives are trained to prepare basic federal tax forms such as interest and dividend income, and adjustments for child-care, education and earned income credits. VITA cannot assist with business or rent-related forms, complicated capital gains and losses or state tax forms.

Many of the necessary forms required to file taxes are available in

the Tax Center located in room 18 of the wing headquarters building. The center will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekdays starting Monday. Federal and state tax forms also may be downloaded from the Internet at www.IRS.gov.

People wanting to use VITA should schedule an appointment with their unit representative when they are ready to file. Everyone

should take all necessary documents, including W-2s and Social Security cards for the filer and all dependents, when seeing the VITA representative.

To schedule an appointment or ask a tax question, contact a VITA representative listed below, or call Captain Dunkley or 1st Lt. Dave Kruckvich at 298-5172.

Editor’s note: Flying members

of the 96th Flying Training Squadron may call any of the flying training squadrons for tax help. Non-flying members of the 96th FTS may contact Staff. Sgt. William Bartram. 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron members may contact 1st Lt. Mark Bain. OSI and any guard of reserve members not in the 96th FTS may contact the legal office at 298-5172.

Squadron	Name	Phone
47th Civil Engineer Squadron	2nd Lt. Erik Hanson	298-4925
47th CES	Staff Sgt. Sean McCauley	298-5036
47th Communications Squadron	Staff Sgt. Sam Benischek	298-5436
47th CS	Senior Airman Kevin Balch	298-5655
47th CS	Senior Airman Keith Pruitt	298-5655
47th Contracting Squadron	2nd Lt. David Shrack	298-5744
47th CONS	Kathy Carson	298-5608
47th Comptroller Flight	2nd Lt. Travis Logsdon	298-5656
47th Flying Training Wing	Capt. Aniya Dunkley	298-5172
47th FTW	1st Lt. Dave Kruckvich	298-5172
47th FTW/Maintenance Directorate	Arla Brewton	298-4140
47th FTW/MX	Liza Watts	298-4171
47th Mission Support Squadron	Airman Benjamin Hill	298-4691
47th MSS	Sabrina Pena	298-5620
47th Medical Operations Squadron	Capt. Hugh Kenrick	298-6430
47th Medical Support Squadron	1st Lt. Mark Bain	298-6323
47th Operations Support Squadron	Capt. Jeremy Watts	298-5928
47th OSS	2nd Lt. Rick Aguirre	298-5928
47th OSS	Staff Sgt. William Bartram	298-5300
47th Security Forces Squadron	2nd Lt. Michael Isbill	298-5248
47th SFS	Jacquie Holloway	298-5190
84/85th Flying Training Squadron	Capt. Denis Casaubon	298-4234
86th FTS	1st Lt. Gabe Behr	298-5443
86th FTS	1st Lt. Justin Mackey	298-5302
87th FTS	1st Lt. Jason O’Brien	298-5383

Wilford Hall doctors place third in nation

By Sue Campbell
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The internal medicine residents at Wilford Hall Medical Center here know their stuff.

The National Board of Medical Examiners recently notified officials at the Air Force’s medical flagship that their residents placed third out of 398 programs nationwide on their Medical Resident in Training examinations.

That result places them in the top

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viewed on how they are managing and disposing the materials,” said Mr. Flores.

Over the past 10 years, Laughlin has received fair ratings. Hazardous materials, such as paints, chemicals or flammable liquids have been one of the more challenging areas for Laughlin during the inspection. This is usually because Laughlin is responsible for tracking all of the materials used on base, including contractors, and ensuring everyone knows and follows the regulations for hazardous materials, he added.

“Over the past four years Laughlin has done a better job at educating people that there is a definite process for getting authorization and approval prior to using hazardous materials,” said Mr. Flores.

An environmental initiative

called “XL Environment” was also created to provide personnel who handle hazardous materials an idea of what to expect during an inspection. This includes fact sheets that address commonly asked questions by inspectors and a comprehensive list of Laughlin ECAMP findings since 1994.

“We’re optimistic that Laughlin is going to do very well,” said Mr. Flores. “We’ve had a lot of improvements in our program. This mostly reaches into the industrial areas but, from a total quality management standpoint, it is fulfilling a quality assessment. If we have a quality process, then people’s lives are improved.”

Since ESOH compliance issues were not addressed in the operational readiness inspection, this inspection is viewed as the second part of the ORI, said Mr. Flores. “So, it’s a strong look.”

The inspectors are experts in the

field and are trained to find any violations of health and environmental areas.

They also perform “dumpster diving” to see what is being disposed of, and that it’s being done correctly. “If there is a lot of housecleaning prior to their visit, things probably weren’t in good condition,” Mr. Flores said. “The inspectors are keen on seeing the end of the process.”

Certain chemicals cannot be discarded in dumpsters and must be disposed of as hazardous. Paints and chemicals that are flammable require special disposal.

“We would like to catch people at the beginning of the process to ensure they are properly educated with storing, using and disposing the materials,” said Mr. Flores.

In order to obtain these items, clearance is needed through the hazardous materials office here. There are quantity requirements and a Ma-

terial Safety Data Sheet to go along with these materials in the workplace. The safety data sheet explains which materials may pose respiratory problems or require protective equipment.

The hazardous materials office has a handout available for anyone who would like further information about regulations for hazardous materials. The office also has a free-issue program, which allows anyone on base to sign out materials in stock for free.

“It’s a good way to save money and shorten the authorization process,” said Mr. Flores.

For more information on hazardous materials and the free-issue program, contact Dena Shadwick at 298-4979.

Organizations interested in receiving an environmental staff assistance visit should contact Lieutenant Bell at 298-4298 or Mr. Flores at 298-5694.

New commander takes reins of 47th Medical Operations Squadron

Compiled from staff reports

Team XL recently welcomed a new commander to the 47th Medical Operations Squadron.

Lt. Col. Robin Squellati assumed command of the 47th MDOS during a change-of-command ceremony Jan. 24.

Lt. Col. Squellati
Hometown: Redding, Calif.
Time in service: 17 years
Education: Associates degree in nursing from Contra Costa College, Calif.; Bachelor of Science in nursing from New York State, N.Y.; Master’s degree in nursing

administration from California State University at Dominguez Hills.

Previous assignments:
Altus Air Force Base, Okla.; Keesler AFB, Miss.; Lakenheath Air Base, England; Robbins AFB, Ga.; Anderson AB, Guam; Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

Greatest feat: Raising my two sons

Leadership philosophy:
Working hands on, working as a team to accomplish goals

Personal hero: Jesus
Favorite quote: “The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high, but that it is too low



Lt. Col. Squellati

and we reach it.” - Michelangelo
Hobbies: Running, cycling, touring, skiing, cooking, hiking
Bad habit: Chocolate

Thinking about getting out?

Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.

'Heart' of family provides 'link' to Air Force

By Capt. Paula Kurtz
Public affairs chief

In February 2002, Laughlin was selected as one of four bases in Air Education and Training Command to test a new program aimed at educating spouses on the military way of life. After only eight months in the test phase, the program was such an obvious success that AETC leaders decided to adopt it command-wide.

Called Heartlink, the free one-day program targets officer and enlisted spouses with less than five years experience with military life. The curriculum is aimed at improving knowledge of the military rank system, Air Force organizational structure, military customs and traditions, entitlements and resources, services available

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Saturday • 5 p.m., Mass
- Sunday • 9:30 a.m., Mass
- Thursday • 6 p.m., Choir
- Reconciliation • By appointment
- Religious Education

- 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Sunday • 6:30 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238
- Friday • 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship (activities for children)
- Monthly • Women’s fellowship (call 298-1351 for details)

Protestant

- Saturday • 9 a.m., Singles Bible study at the Chaparral Dining facility
- Sunday • 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
- 11 a.m., General worship (blend of contemporary and traditional worship, nursery provided)
- Wednesday • 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study
- 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

Artists document AF history with art

By Staff Sgt. Todd C. Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – First-time visitors to the Pentagon might expect to see star-studded generals and high-tech “war rooms.” What they might not expect is that the walls of this 60-year-old building not only frame its famous catacomb hallways, but also double as an art gallery.

The Air Force Art Program is responsible for acquiring and managing this dizzying array of Air Force-related artwork. The program, which began in 1950, has amassed more than 8,000 pieces of art – mostly paintings – that document aircraft, people, battles and locations significant to Air Force history. Some of those paintings, said the program’s director, are older than the Air Force itself.

“Some of the oldest pieces we have in the collection were donated by the Rockefellers – art by Henry Farre,” Russell Kirk said. “Those paintings date back to the early 1900s. Farre was one of the first aviation documenters for warfare.”

The first 800 or so paintings, Mr. Kirk said, were donated to the Air Force collection by the Army when the program first began. The remainder of the works were done mostly at the request of the Air Force and were donated to the collection by the artists themselves.

Program participants are not novices, Mr. Kirk said. Some demand five-figure prices for their work when they sell to civilian patrons. That they choose to donate some of their work to the Air Force, however, is no surprise.

“One reason is just the feeling of patriotism,” said John Witt, an artist who has been doing work for the program since the early 1980s. “These artists love their country and support their armed services. Many, like myself, are former military and have experience doing art for the services.”

Mr. Witt is currently working on a painting for the program featuring a youthful Staff Sgt. Henry “Red” Erwin, a World War II Medal of Honor recipient. Sergeant Erwin, at great danger to himself, picked up a burning phosphorous bomb that had ignited inside his B-29 Superfortress aircraft and threw it out a cockpit window. Sergeant Erwin’s face and body were severely burned from handling the device, but his actions saved the aircraft and

crew.

One difficulty in completing this most current work is ensuring the historical accuracy of what he portrays, Mr. Witt said. There was little documentation or source material on which to base his work.

“Getting the research has been hard,” he said. “There was only one small photo of him before he had been burned. I’ve been (looking) to find what that phosphorous bomb looks like, but I can’t find it. Right now in the painting, he is holding what looks like an oatmeal can.”

Often times the artists are on their own when doing a historical piece, Mr. Witt said.

“(Sometimes) there

is no photo to copy from,” Mr. Witt said. “You have to do it all from imagination. It’s a lot of reference, and you’ve got to make sure all your references are accurate. It’s a good

three months of solid work. You can’t take on any other assignments. I’ve got other people who want to be painted, but I can’t do anything until I get this done.”

When completed, the painting will be on display at the Enlisted Research Library on the Maxwell Air Force Base Gunter Annex in Alabama. The library will be dedicated in honor of the recently deceased Erwin.

While most works held by the Air Force Art Program are currently on display at the Pentagon or at major command headquarters around the globe, all the works are available for viewing by the public on the program’s Web site.

Additionally, the Air Force has work on public display at the Richmond Aviation Museum and at the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum in Georgia. The program is currently working with the College Park Museum in Arlington, Va., to display some works there. It is at these public displays where Air Force art really has the most impact, Mr. Kirk said.

“This artwork tells of the Air Force’s different missions and stories, and I’ve seen the kids who are looking at (the exhibits),” Mr. Kirk said. “Those kids are 5 and 10 years old, and they are captivated by them. Or there is a guy who is 80-some years old, and he’s looking at a painting of a B-20, and he’s back there. You talk to him about it, and he has all this history to tell you. It’s all about history, and it’s all about telling the story of our rich heritage.”

“These artists love their country and support their armed services.”
– John Witt

Air Force Art Program artist

Best selling author coming to Laughlin

Compiled from staff reports

New York Times best selling author Dan Clark will be in town for Laughlin’s family dining-out to be held Feb. 7 at Club XL.

All base personnel are encouraged to attend the event, featuring the internationally recognized entertainer, songwriter, recording artist and speaker. Achievers Canada and Achievers Europe named Mr. Clark one of the top ten speakers in the world.

His multi-million dollar business and story of his fight back from a paralyzing injury that cut short his football career have been featured on over 500 television and radio shows.

Mr. Clark’s story *Puppies for Sale* was made into a motion picture filmed at Paramount Studios starring the late Jack Lemmon. He is also the primary contributing author to the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, co-author of *Chicken Soup for the College Soul* and the author of twenty of his own highly acclaimed books, including the extraordinary business lead-

ership book *Simon Says*. In 1982, Mr. Clark was named Outstanding Young Man of America. He was then sponsored by Zig Ziglar into the National Speakers Association and has since spoken to over 3 million people in all 50 states, throughout Canada and in 20 other countries throughout Europe, Asia and the former Soviet Union.

According to Mark Victor Hansen and Jack Canfield, creators of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, “Dan is bigger than life, one of the greatest storytellers in the world and one of our most popular and beloved authors.”

The event is recommended for families with a target audience of children 10 and older. Singles members are also welcome to attend.

Tickets are \$10 per person and will be available until close of business today for purchase at the Fiesta Youth Center or the group executive officer

For more information, call 298-5922.



Dan Clark

The *XL*er

Hometown: Cape Cod, Mass.
Family: Father, Daniel; mother, Patricia; four sisters and three brothers.
Time at Laughlin: Four months
Time in service: Eight months
Greatest accomplishments: Being a leader for the marching band in high school and receiving so many awards
Hobbies: Watching movies, golf, bowling, video games and weight lifting
Bad habits: Spending money too quickly
Favorite musician or band: Staind
Favorite movie: The New Guy
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Sarah Michelle Gellar, I would like to get know her.

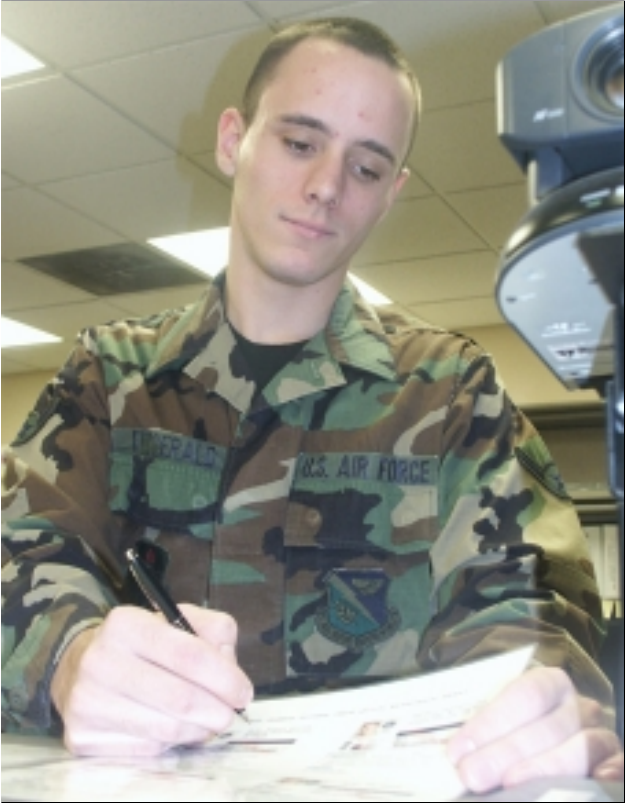


Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Airman Theodore Fitzgerald
47th Mission Support Squadron

This month in Centennial of Flight history:

Jan. 2, 1967: Col. Robin Olds, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing commander, shot down a MiG-21 to become the only USAF ace with aerial victories in both World War II and Vietnam.

Jan. 12, 1935: Amelia Earhart completed the first solo flight from Hawaii to California flying a Lockheed Vega

Jan. 13, 1993: Maj. Susan Helms, USAF, a member of the space shuttle *Endeavour* crew, became the first U.S. military woman in space.

Jan. 17, 1991: Operation Desert Storm, the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi military occupation, opened with a massive barrage of air and cruise missile strikes against targets in Iraq and

Kuwait.
Jan. 17, 1991: To modernize its fleet of training aircraft, the Air Force accepted the first production model T-1A Jayhawk.



Jan. 18, 1957: Commanded by Maj. Gen. Archie J. Old, Jr., USAF, three B-52 Stratofortresses completed the first around-the-world nonstop flight by jet aircraft.

Jan. 21, 1908: The Sig-

nal Corps announced a specification for an Army airship. It called for an aircraft that could fly for two hours, carry two persons, and maintain a minimum speed of 20 miles per hour.

Jan. 21, 1951: Lt. Col. William E. Bertram became the first USAF pilot to shoot down a MiG-15 while flying an F-84 Thunderjet.

Jan. 28, 1986: The seven crew members of the space shuttle *Challenger* were killed in an explosion shortly after liftoff from the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Jan. 31, 1958: *Explorer I*, the first U.S. satellite to go into orbit, was launched by the Army’s Jupiter C rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Red Bulls fly past 84/85th FTS in battle of training squadrons

By Airman 1st Class
Timothy Stein
Editor

The 87th Red Bulls bul-
lied their way past Eastern
Conference rivals 84/85th
FTS, 47-32, in an ugly game
Wednesday night at the fit-
ness center.

Glen Gonzales led the
charge for the Red Bulls with
14 points and a great defen-
sive effort in a game riddled
with fouls and turnovers.

The first half started
slowly with neither team
able to find the basket.
Gonzales finally hit a jump
shot to put the 87th on the
board. The 84/85th followed
with a bucket and a foul but

failed to convert the three-
point play. Gonzales hit a
three-pointer on the next
possession, putting the 87th
up by three.

The 84/85th rebounded
quickly however, with the
strong play of Brad Opp who
scored four quick points to
give the 84/85th its only lead
of the game. After that, it
was all Red Bulls.

Using better fundamen-
tals, the 87th held the
84/85th squad to just 12 first
half points. They blocked out
better on defense and didn't
turn the ball over as much on
offense. At the end of the half
the score was 18-12 Red
Bulls.

The Red Bulls didn't
waste any time starting their
offense in the second half.
They scored 10 points in the
first five minutes.

The 84/85th squad also
must have lit a fire under its
offense during halftime be-
cause they came out hitting
shots they were missing
throughout the first half.
Unfortunately for them, so
was the 87th.

The two teams traded off
baskets throughout most of
the second half. No matter
what they did, the 84/85th
team couldn't get any closer
to the lead. The game ended
with the score, 47-32, in fa-
vor of the Red Bulls.

Basketball standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
87th	4-0	183	117
OSS#1	3-1	165	123
86th	3-1	143	153
LCSAM	2-3	140	152
84/85th	1-4	189	182
OSS#2	0-4	72	146

Western Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
MED GP	3-1	193	179
SFS	3-1	205	147
CES	2-1	171	155
Compt.	2-2	154	172
CCS	1-3	148	177
LSI	1-4	218	260